**REGINA MINOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE**

**GENERAL OPERATING RULES**

**REVISED – *2023/24***

The2024 General Operating Rules will apply to the Regina Minor Softball League (RMSL) operations. League game rules are described in the *RMSL - League Rules* document. The General Operating Rules are in addition to the rules stated in the 2023 Softball Saskatchewan’s Hand Book and the 2022/2023 Softball Canada Rule Book.

\*U19 division – these rules will be superseded by the Ladies League rules

**RULE 1 - AGE CLASSIFICATION**

## Section 1

 i) Softball Canada age classifications:

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| **U19** | Born 2005, 2006 |  |
| **U17** | Born 2007, 2008 |  |
| **U15** | Born 2009, 2010 |  |
| **U13** | Born 2011, 2012 |  |
| **U11** | Born 2013, 2014 |  |
| **LTP/TIMBITS** | Born 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 |  |
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**RULE 2 - PLAYER AND TEAM REGISTRATION**

**Section 1**

With the exception of players in the Learn to Play and U19 divisions, players registered with the RMSL must play in the zone in which they reside and shall not be allowed to transfer from one zone to another. Every effort must be made to adhere to this rule; however, the following exceptions will be allowed:

i) Where there is a dispute as to the zone in which a player resides, it shall be up to the player to provide proof to the RMSL of their principal residence. Examples of proof shall include but not be limited to:

- affidavit from the custodial parent; or

 - letter from the principal of the school where the player attends.

ii) If a zone has an insufficient number of players to field a team, the players may with approval of the, RMSL play outside their zone. Any requests of this nature must be submitted in writing to the Zone Representative.

iii) Players who live in the area surrounding Regina may register with the RMSL, if they have attended school in Regina six months prior to the registration deadline date. Players must register and play in the zone that their school is located.

iv) The RMSL is committed to the players in the RMSL, District 2 of Softball SK and will therefore not release players to play outside District 2.

1. In the event that there is no active team or a U13-U17 aged out of town player wishes to evaluate for an A team in Regina, individual players may apply on an annual basis to the RMSL executive for permission to apply to play in the RMSL. Once a player is placed within a Zone in Regina, that Zone will continue to be the Zone the player will play for during their softball career, unless the player moves into Regina to live in a different Zone.
2. In the event that there is no active team in the athlete’s division in the area immediately surrounding Regina (as defined in the accompanying map) individual players may apply on an annual basis to the RMSL executive for permission to apply to play in the appropriate zone as defined by accompanying map. All Softball Saskatchewan, Softball Canada, and RMSL rules will apply.
3. Subject to 2.1 (vii) teams in the U19 category may be made up of players from any zone within the City of Regina.
4. Where an affiliate team in the U19 Category does not have a sufficient number of players to field a team, players from within the City of Regina may play on such affiliate team with the consent of the RMSL executive.

**Section 2**

i) Subject to Section 2(vi) and 2, the RMSL will consist of Division AA, Division A and Division B in the U13, U15, and U17 categories. The U19 category will play in the Regina Ladies Softball Association (RLSA) division appropriate to their team’s skill level. The RMSL may host a U19 A team in our RMSL U17 division if appropriate. This policy will be reviewed annually.

ii) Each Zone will be required to field 2 Division AA teams in the U13 and U15 categories and two U17AA teams formed at the board’s discretion. The League Executive may, if necessary, reorganize the Division AA, Division A and Division B teams after a suitable evaluation period. The RMSL Executive, in consultation with the affected team coaches and division representatives, if necessary, will make such changes.

iii) In the event a Zone has sufficient players to make up two teams in a category, then that Zone will be required to field a Division AA team, and at their discretion the second team may play in either Division A or Division B.

iv) In the event a Zone has sufficient players to make up three teams, then that Zone will be required to field a team in each of Division AA, Division A and Division B.

v) In the event a Zone has sufficient players to make up more than three teams in a category, then the Zone will be required to field a team in each of Division AA, Division A and Division B, and thereafter additional teams may be in Division AA, Division A or Division B at the Zone’s discretion.

1. The requirement to have a Division AA, Division A or Division B team in any category is subject to the league having at least four teams in that level in the category.

**Section 3**

1. Players registered in the RMSL are not allowed to play or practice with another softball team without the approval of the division coordinator during the RMSL team’s season from
April 1st to the end of the season which includes westerns or nationals or provincials when applicable.

Consequence: Players who violate this rule will be suspended for the remainder of
the current season with possibility of an additional season suspension at the board’s discretion.

Exception: A player may register and play/practice for only one team but may play for a school team (including Martin/Tommy Douglas Academy, University teams and elementary or high school extra-curricular teams) or a team that is part of Softball Saskatchewan Program.

**Section 4**

1. A player, once registered with the RMSL, must play in the appropriate age classification according to their date of birth as stated in Rule 1; Section 1i) without a letter of request from her parents and approval of the RMSL Executive.

#### Section 5

1. Teams must register, through their zone or affiliate organization, with the League Registrar and pay on or before the date set by the Executive.
2. U19 aged players will be required to register and affiliate through the RMSL to play in the RSLA. The RMSL will not allow the release of players from the U19 division unless there is an insufficient number of players to field a team at the U19 level.

**Section 6**

i) Teams must register the name, address, and phone number of the coach, assistant coach and team manager plus the name, address, phone number and birth date of all team players. The League Registrarand Division Representative must be notified in writing of any changes to the team. Girls playing in the RMSL may be asked to submit a copy of proof of age (Birth Certificate or Hospitalization with the Team Registration). This will be provided to the Registrar of the zones\affiliates.

ii) All teams must register with a minimum of twelve (12) players. Any team may apply for a concession of this rule where a situation exists that the strict enforcement of the rule would prevent girls from playing. The exception is in Timbit Softball.

**Section 7**

i) To be eligible to play in league games, a player must be registered with the League Registrar twenty-four (24) hours before game time.

ii) Division Representatives must also be notified if players are added to the team roster.

iii) Additional players cannot be signed after June 1st.

## Section 8

## i) Coaches using ineligible players shall be subject to disciplinary action.

**Section 9**

1. All affiliate teams wishing to register with the RMSL shall be required to post a $200.00 performance bond for the season, which shall be paid at the time of registration.
2. At the conclusion of the season RMSL shall refund to each zone/affiliate team the balance of the zones/affiliate team’s performance bond.

### Section 10

i) In the event that a team is fined in accordance with 3.2.2, then such fine shall be charged against the performance bond posted in accordance with Section 2.9. The Zones/Affiliate teams also agree that should a fine be levied in accordance with Section 3.2.2, they shall upon receipt of an invoice from the League Treasurer restore said performance.

**RULE 3 - LEAGUE GAMES**

#### Section 1

i) Players in all divisions should receive comparable playing time during regular season games. Coaches, who, in the Division Representative’s judgment, violate this rule, will be subject to disciplinary action.

### Section 2

i) Re-scheduling of games will be permitted at the discretion of the Division Representative. Coaches should make every attempt to field a team and play the game.

1. Teams requesting game cancellations must notify the RMSL 72 hours in advance of the scheduled game. **The Division Representative shall be responsible to “immediately” advise the Umpire in Chief and coach of the other team of such game cancellation. Failure of a team to provide the required 72 hours advance notice will result in the team being assessed a fine of $50.00, with such fine to be deducted from that Zone’s or affiliated team’s performance bond.**
2. In the event that a team does not have enough players (nine) to play the league game **at the time of the game**, the team with an incomplete roster will forfeit the game, be assigned a loss and the non-forfeiting team assigned a win. Both teams can agree to play an exhibition game. The umpire(s), as an employee of the RMSL, will stay to officiate, **unless** there is another league game occurring concurrently that requires an umpire, in which the umpire(s) will work the non-forfeited game that requires an umpire.
3. “Exhibition Games” - A game which is not a part of the Regular Season, Tournament or Playoff schedule. All Exhibition Games must be sanctioned through the RMSL and Softball Sk and all players must be affiliated with Softball SK.

**RULE 4 - UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT**

# **Section 1**

1. Players must wear long pants and regular numbered ball jersey. Shorts are acceptable in the U11 Division and higher provided the entire team dress alike. If shorts are worn - sliding pants are mandatory.
2. Helmet cages are mandatory for all players in the U11 – U17 age categories
3. Pitchers in U11 – U17 are mandated to wear protective facemasks and other infielders are encouraged to wear defensive face masks for their protection

**Section 2**

i) The league will supply game balls; line up cards, bases, scorebooks and umpires for league games. Exception is for Timbit Softball, as no line up cards, scorebook or umpires are required for league games.

**RULE 4 - CONDUCT**

**Section 1**

1. League games are tune-ups for Tournaments, League playoffs and Provincials. Coaches are encouraged to use Fair Play Ethics towards players, opposition players and coaches and the umpires.

**Section 2**

1. Coaches are expected to lead by example and behave in a sportsmanlike and professional manner.
2. Players/Team officials/parents are expected to behave in a sportsmanlike manner and treat coaches, officials and players with respect.
3. Failure to comply with Section i) and ii) may result in to disciplinary action.

# **Section 3**

i) The League Executive may decide, with a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, to intervene if a problem or dispute arises within a Zone organization that affects the Zone’s ability to organize, equip and field teams. Intervention may include temporary control of Zone pending resolution of the dispute.

### Section 4

1. The name, “Regina Minor Girls Softball League” or “Regina Minor Softball League” shall not

be used by teams or zone organizations for fundraising or any other purposes, without written

permission from the Regina Minor Softball League Executive.

**RULE 6 - COACHING CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS**

##### Section 1

i) Teams participating in the Regina Minor Softball League must have a coach that holds a complete Community Sport On-Going Participation (CS-OP) or Level 1 National Coaching Certification Program Coaching Certificate or equivalent. An exception will be made for coaches who are coaching in the Regina Minor Softball League for the first time unless required for their team to attend provincials. All coaches must have completed a Respect in Sport course or an equivalent course as recognized by Softball Sask. All first year Timbit Softball coaches must attend the LTP Orientation.

1. All teams registering in a Provincial Championship category that leads to a Western Canadian or Canadian Championship require a minimum of one (1) Coach to be fully certified Competition Introduction and or have a complete Softball Level II Coaching Certificate and must be present at the Provincial Championship and on the bench.
2. All coaches must complete Respect in Sport Activity Leader Certification.

**RULE 7 – U9s, NOVICE AND BEGINNER**

## Section 1

i) The play of athletes in the U5 – U9 divisions will be governed by the Timbit Softball manuals.